

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:47pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth, James McIlroy, and Wes Moore. Others present were: Sue McKinnon, Don Doane, Reuben Hull, Alison Watts, and Dave Mason.

A discussion about the differences between a Discretionary Easement and Current Use was held. A Discretionary Easement expires in ten years whereas Current Use does not have a specific expiration date. Both types of easements have a ten percent penalty for discontinuation and are recorded on the deed. A discount on the tax rate is allowed for each of these easements.

The Newfields Village Water and Sewer District left a notice with the Selectmen that an immediate Emergency Water Ban is in effect until further notice. The main well (#6) is not producing enough water for the District's current needs.

This Emergency Water Ban means the following:

No outside watering
No filling of pools
No washing of cars, boats, etc.

Residents are encouraged to conserve water by showering instead of bathing, limit flushing of toilets, and to use bath water for outside plants.

The well which was drilled last week did not produce any water and another new well is in the process of being drilled.

The letter to Primex advising that the Town is not ready to commit to the new Multi-Year Agreements for Liability, Commercial Automobile, Property, and Workers' Compensation Insurance coverages was signed.

The contract from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Department to accept the grant for the DWI patrols this summer was signed .

The update from the State of New Hampshire regarding Lyme Disease in New Hampshire was reviewed and will be posted on the Town Office bulletin board.

The Application For Temporary Groundwater Discharge Permit filed by the Newfields Village Water and Sewer District with the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services was reviewed.

The Highway Safety Agency approved the contract for the “Newfields Enforcement Patrols”.

The upcoming Public Hearing regarding the proposed Bicycle Lane Contract was discussed. Nancy will obtain copies of the contracts that the Town Counsel is asking for and whom he can contact for information.

Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Program sent a thank you letter to the Town for their donation to the program.

Granite State Quest provided the necessary Certificate of Insurance for the bicycle race that will go through a part of Newfields on July 14th.

Nancy was asked to contact the Perkins Insurance Agency to report the Small Claims Complaint filed against the Town Clerk. Primex, our current carrier, did not write the insurance coverage for the Town at the time of this claim.

Wes made a motion to lease the old Post Office Building to the Martins on a month to month basis until March 31, 2008. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. The contract was signed by the Selectmen and Nancy was asked to contact Dave Martin and ask him to sign the contract.

Don, Alison, and Dave met with the Selectmen to discuss the Conservation Commission bank accounts. According to RSA Title III, Chapter 36-A:5, the town treasurer, pursuant to RSA 41:29, shall have custody of all moneys in the conservation fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the conservation commission. The disbursement of conservation funds shall be authorized by a majority of the conservation commission. A copy of that RSA is attached to these minutes.

Effective tomorrow, Don will transfer the funds from the Conservation Commission’s checking account to the PDIP account. All invoices for the Conservation Commission will be paid out of the Town’s checking account with the money being taken from the Conservation Commission budget line. The Conservation Commission will approve the invoices at their meetings and give the approved invoices to the Administrative Assistant for payment. This action will satisfy the requirements of the Town Auditors and bring the Town closer to compliance with the government accounting practices.

The intention of the Selectmen is not to tell the Conservation Commission how they may spend their funds. However, the Auditor has told the Selectmen that

they must make sure a majority of the Conservation Commission members have approved the expenditures. A copy of the meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission will accomplish this.

The Selectmen and the Conservation Commission understand that once a majority of the Conservation Commission members approve an invoice for payment, it will be paid or a contract may be entered into. Those items approved must be in their charter.

Dave asked for clarification on the return of \$19,300. from the Conservation Commission to the Town. Nancy will provide a copy of the explanation from the Auditors to Dave. Basically, penalties were lumped in with the Current Use Change Tax. The Conservation Commission is not paid a percentage of penalties but only a percentage of the Current Use Change Tax.

Reuben advised that he could not find any State RSAs regarding Real Estate of Yard Sale signs. This means that the Selectmen enforce the sign ordinance or assigns the job to the Police Department or may re-write the ordinance.

Wes nominated Michael to call the Local Government Center for guidance on the sign issue and to report back to the other Selectmen. It was also suggested that Michael call some of the surrounding towns and ask what their ordinances or policies are with regard to real estate or yard sale signs.

Wes spoke with the Exeter Newsletter and made arrangements to be interviewed later on this week about the proposed bicycle lane.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2007 meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

At this time the Selectmen are looking for volunteers to serve the Town in the following capacities:

1. Planning Board Member
2. Newfields Volunteer Fire Department
3. Budget Advisory Committee
4. Celebration Committee
5. Clean Up Days

If you are willing and able to serve the Town, please contact the Town Office at 772-5070 or any of your Selectmen.

Michael contacted Concepts In Benefits and is still working on obtaining a representative to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the program.

The Selectmen have received many positive comments on the Memorial Day Celebration. The Selectmen would like to thank the Celebration Committee for their hard work and dedication to the Town of Newfields.

The Selectmen also acknowledge the hard work of the Boy Scouts at the old Post Office Building and appreciate their service to the Town.

The wooden benches that are currently being stored on the stage in the Town Hall will be listed for sale on Craig's List. Wes will take charge of this project.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. The motion was seconded by Michael and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer